



WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, INC.

Totem Tabloid

June 2015

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 9



DXpeditioner Rob Fanfant, N7QT, will speak about the VK9AN DXpedition to Christmas Island with Melanie, N7BX--planning, logistics, operations, as well as a lot of photographs of their incredible journey half way around the world and back.

Rob's 125th Street Grill, located at 125th and Aurora Avenue North

Dinner at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is \$ 20 including tax and tip.

Please RSVP your dinner plans to Adam, K7EDX k7edx@arrl.net

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

If you've never been to the Dayton Hamvention you must go! Since I am mostly stuck in the SteppIR booth over the weekend, I don't get to see as much as a regular attendee. Nevertheless, I managed to drag Mike K7IR out of bed every morning so that we could hit the flea market at 8 a.m. The vendors' areas don't open until 9 a.m., so on Sunday morning I made a trip through those areas. You've heard it before. Just about every manufacturer that's in the ham radio market is there.

It's always exciting to see who is new and what new gear is on the horizon. One thing is for sure: solid state amplifiers won't be in short supply! Rumor has it that even Tokyo High Power is on the way back.

It took a week or so to get back in the swing of things. Getting up at 6 a.m. East Coast time really messes with your head! If you hadn't heard already, another story coming out of Dayton is the reported planned repair and upgrading of HARA Complex over the next year. Hopefully it happens. I have one request--air conditioning in the arena! Now that's probably "pie in the sky."

This weekend I head down to the SeaPac Convention, one of my favorites. There is no nicer location for a convention than Seaside, Oregon. You Southern Washington guys better come by and say "Hi." I know there are a few of you Northern guys who are making the trek down. I can taste a Bigfoot steak already!

Right after Seaside is our next club meeting on June 9. Since this is my birthday, that should be reason enough to show up! Well, you might want to actually hear Rob N7QT tell the story of his DXpedition to Christmas Island instead. Melanie, N7BX, Rob's partner in all this traveling, will also be at the meeting. She's a wonderful lady and an incredible photographer. I bet they have pretty pictures to show!

Have a great week!

Random Comments From the Editor

Congratulations to Ward, N0AX, who was recently inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. Ward reports that he was wearing his WWDXC badge as he was inducted at a ceremony at the Contest Dinner at Dayton. He also wore his finest KH6 shirt, something that I'm sure brought a smile to Danny, K7SS. You can see the presentation at https://youtu.be/-RW_yVpi0Y8 You can find Ward and his band, the Spurious Emissions, performing at the Contest Suite at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBFH7gU7TJ_VcResUS1Hf1Ubchg9o6tRu Be sure to click on the "CC" button so you can see the clever lyrics.



(Ward, N0AX, holding the CQ Contest Hall of Fame plaque with presenter Randy, K5ZD)

If you missed the May meeting where Adam, VA7OJ, spoke about receiver testing, you can find his presentation at <http://www.nsarc.ca/hf/rcvrtest.pdf>

This month had some temporary excitement as several YLs (Latvians, not ladies) promised an operation from Mt. Athos. It seems that one of the YLs paid several visits to Mt. Athos and got “verbal permission” to operate from “two highest officials.” Apparently content with that, the group announced their operation and drove 2,700 km, only to be told by Monk Apollo that the Holy Council had prohibited an operation because no license had been obtained from the Council. The disappointed group drove back home. Not surprisingly, a chorus of protests ensued, accompanied by a petition to delete Mt. Athos from the DXCC list (good luck). If you want to, you can read all about it at <http://www.lral.lv/exped/sv2/y17a/>

We who chase DX are suffering from an embarrassment of riches: the number of planned DXpeditions to countries very high on the Most Wanted List is truly staggering. Here’s the list of those DXpeditions that have announced their plans (apologies if I’ve overlooked any):

TX3X http://www.tx3x.com/	Chesterfield Island	October 2015
3Y0F	Bouvet Island	December 2015
VP8STI/VP8SGI http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8/	South Sandwich/ South Georgia	January-February 2016
K5E http://palmyra2016.org/	Palmyra Atoll	January 2016
P5?	North Korea	January-February 2016
FT4? http://www.juandenovadx.com/en/	Juan de Nova	March 2016
VK0EK http://vk0ek.org/	Heard Island	March-April 2016

This is all obviously great news. But there's a downside, and it's a serious one. These are all expensive projects: the budget for the South Sandwich/South Georgia operations, for example, is close to a half-million dollars. With seven "mega" DXpeditions scheduled to occur in the next 11 months, the leaders of these projects are finding that the treasuries of the foundations and clubs that support DXpeditions are stretched to, and in some cases beyond, the breaking point. The operators for these projects are each putting up a substantial amount of money for the "privilege" of operating under harsh conditions and being gone from home for several weeks, or more. Now more than ever, it's time for DXers who benefit from these DXpeditions to step up and help.

Don Greenbaum, N1DG, did a study of DXpedition financing a few years ago for NCDXF. That study showed that the cost per QSO for DXpeditions to the Southern Ocean countries was about \$ 4.30. The study can be found at <http://www.ncdxf.org/newsletters/2012-AUTUMN.pdf> I'm confident that it's *much* higher today, as the cost of transport has gone up in a big way as the owners of the few vessels that can deliver reliable and safe transport have realized that they have market power and face "buyers" with few alternatives.

Please see if you can find a way to support the DXpedition(s) of your choice with a contribution. And if you can, make it now, when the upfront costs are being paid. Any amount will be greatly appreciated and will help relieve the anxieties of the leaders. I don't know about you, but I'd rather they spend their time figuring out how to work the West Coast instead of fundraising.

Vanity Call Signs Are Now Free

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee

category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination. (Thanks to Jim, W6SC and nccc@contesting.com)

You're Never Too Old

Our Northwestern Division Director Jim Pace, K7CEX, reports the following: "Graham Kent, W7CZL, born in 1923, passed his Extra class exam on Saturday [May 23]. I'm not sure if this is a record for the oldest ham passing an FCC exam, but congratulations to Graham for his accomplishment. Graham has been a long time member of Army MARS and a Life Member of ARRL." Joe, N7PLO, advises that the exam was administered by the VE group of the Kitsap Amateur Radio Club.

A New North End Breakfast Gathering

Mike, W7NP, who was the speaker at the November club meeting, reports that he has organized a new breakfast meeting in Lynnwood. For now the gathering will take place on the 4th Friday of each month. The group gets together at 10:00 a.m. at the following location:

Stricker's Cafe
19820 40th Ave W #9
Lynnwood, WA 98036

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Mike at w7np@yahoo.com.

Pacific Northwest DX Convention Update

Rich Stempien, W6RS

The Holiday Inn has informed us that our guaranteed room assignment block is now 100% SOLD. There are still plenty of rooms currently available over and above the guaranteed block but the hotel recommends making reservations ASAP as August is a very busy time. The hotel in general is over 50% booked, as there are other events booked for the same weekend. I'm told that any reservations made after July 1st could be problematic.

The various committees have been working on getting the nuts and bolts of the convention ironed out. Your Chairman took a week off for a vacation and will now be around full time, anticipating a nervous breakdown the weekend of the convention.

7th District QSO Party

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

This year I had planned to use a K3 as my mobile rig for the 7th District QSO Party. I do county lines in this event so it would have worked out well since I am stationary when operating. I tested it out a week ahead, all seemed well and I looked forward to the better capabilities. But then setting up Thursday evening, the radio would shut off every time I keyed it. I could never figure out if it was a power or an RF problem. Finally in frustration, I grabbed my fall-back, the IC-706 MarkII. Fortunately, it was ready to go by just reconnecting power and the coax.

For efficiency I sit on county lines and each contact counts as two. That means driving to the next county line and, in some areas of eastern Washington, that can be a long drive. In some cases after 30 minutes on a line, it's a 90 minute drive before operating again. It can be a long day driving alone for most of the day out in the wild open spaces. This year, I tried something different: I asked one of my granddaughters if she wanted to come along.

Rest assured, my granddaughter Jalaya, has NO interest in radio and I was really worried about a seven year-old on such a long drive. I wouldn't have attempted this with one of the other grandkids--it would have been "*I'm bored*" and "*are we there yet?*" all day long. Jalaya is a little bit different though I did have to cater to some child interests.

In between operating stops, we stopped at windmills and took a ferry ride over the Columbia. She was in charge of the GPS and we learned about elevation and just how high parts of Eastern Washington are. I also gave her a camera to use and she picked up the essentials fairly--"*oh, it does video!*"--quickly. Of course, we had to stop for ice cream in a place called Dusty. There were a couple of county line spots in parks where a kid can run some energy off but it'll be a while before

the geese forget her on the Snake River. There was always some goal before the next stop and, in between, there was the scenery of a part of the world she had never seen before, having always lived on this side of the mountains. Places where you can't see a tree anywhere, where you can touch a tumbleweed, and where you watch dust devils in a wheat field. There is also this really big dam you might have heard of. She colored in a map of the USA as I worked states--"*which State is Poland?*"--and toward the end she was even asking a little bit about Morse Code.

We stopped at 14 counties for the contest and drove 800 miles. Propagation wasn't all that good, but I did work Japan and a few Europeans. My contact total (346) was about half of last year's but I never wanted for company and she made the hours go by quickly. Of course, she got to take a nap anytime she wanted but that just gave me some needed time to myself. Only time will tell if she ever wants to go on another trip with Grandpa D but I'm hopeful.

WWDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WWDXC DXCC Ladder is now on the website. You can find it by clicking on "DXCC Ladder" on the homepage or by going to <http://www.wwdxc.org/dxcc-ladder-2/> and clicking on "click for dxcc ladder" The Ladder is published in the Totem Tabloid once a year in the January issue. Please send your updates to me at wa7srz@frontier.com.

Contest Activity Report June 2015

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

We are getting to that time of the year when doing other things takes precedence over sitting inside in front of a radio. I am happy that this was one of those Memorial Day weekends that DOESN'T coincide with the upcoming CW WPX. I don't have to feel guilty about working in the yard and not being on the air.

7th District QSO Party

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
Cnty Exped SO LP						
K7WA	227	87	0	52	9	44,460
W7VP	215	0	0	49	18	31,458
Mobile CW LP						
N7WA/M	346	0	0	51		52,632
SOCW LP						
KX7L	123	0	0	33	4	12,177
SOMixed HP						
K7SS	253	147	0	60	4	63,420
KD7H	160	45	0	33	5	18,810
SOMixed LP						
W7OM	483	44	0	60	8.9	91,680

SOAPBOX

KD7H: Spent much of the day outside since the weather was so nice. The best band for me was 40 CW. On 20M SSB, I was surprised to find John, ON4UN, who gave me a contest exchange. Also it was great to work Darryl, WW7D, as he moved from county to county, and I was happy to work Jim, K7WA from very rare Jefferson County, WA. Thanks to all the mobile/portable ops!

K7WA: Operated portable battery power from a state park beach on the west side of Hood Canal - nice water shot to the east. Watched the clam diggers while I worked the contest. Thanks for the QSOs! IC-706MkIIG - 100 watts Hamstick whips for 40, 20, and 15 meters

K7SS: Lots of activity makes for good fun! Thanks for the Qs.

KX7L: As usual this weekend conflicts with two birthdays here, so my time was limited. Then I discovered that my 80M antenna wasn't loading. Still lots of fun!

W7VP: I drove to the Thousand Trails campground north of Burlington on Friday and selected a large campsite on the top of the hill, hoping to get a low noise location. The campsite was very large and permitted assembly of two vertical antennas. Noise level was in fact very low. I assembled and tuned the Bravo 7K vertical dipole for 40 meters, minimizing the SWR with the MFJ antenna analyzer. Then I assembled the CrankIR with four six-foot extensions and attached it to the truck in the trailer hitch receiver. Tuned it to 20 meters using the radial assembly and the MFJ antenna analyzer. Assembled the rig from the go box using the new FT-991. This was the first major effort with the FT-991. Attached to the laptop with two USB cables, one for CAT/Soundcard and one for FSK.

The new rig acted strangely with the internal tuner enabled but worked well without it, given the low SWR of the antennas. Both antennas worked well with the CrankIR doing a great job and even logging some European DX.

I worked the entire 18 hour period as an expedition station, low power, multi-band, CW only. I took off a number of rest periods and took the dog for several walks. Total was 215 Qs with 49 mults for a claimed score of 31,458. The rig was easy to use and very user friendly with the touch screen, Although the spectrum was small it was pretty useful by touching "sweep" and checking the location of the signals. Reception was very good and the receiver is excellent. Interference was easily controlled using the narrow filter and the width control.

All in all it was a good exercise with the new rig and I look forward to using it more in the future.

DX Info Sources

John Owens, N7TK (jcowens1@comcast.net)

Discovering what countries (sorry, "entities") are currently operating on the bands and getting a confirmation (QSL or LOTW) once you work them has become easier in one sense with the flood of electronic information and more difficult in another sense, as the amount of available information is almost overwhelming. Below are some very useful websites that will help solve these problems. If you have other sites that you have found helpful and think should be on this list, please send the info to me at jcowens1@comcast.net and I'll include them in future issues.

Useful DX Sites

The Daily DX (www.dailydx.com) (subscription service but can't be beat for timely info)

The DX Zone (www.dxzone.com/catalog/)

Internet Ham Atlas (www.hamatlas.eu)

Announced DX Operations

DX World (<http://dx-world.net>) (look for the "DXW Weekly Bulletin")

NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page (www.ng3k.com/Misc.adxo.html)

DXing Info (www.dxing.info/dxpeditions)

Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin (www.payays.com/opdx1044.html)

QSL and Manager Info

Pathfinder (Pathfinder.exe) (<http://www.dxlabsuite.com>) (Click on QSL Info)

QSL Manager Lookup (www.IK3QAR.it/manager)

K3WWP QSL Routes (http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/dx_ss_qsling.html)

HamQTH Callbook (www.hamqth.com/)_

ORCA DX and Contest Club (www.orcadxcc.org/index.html) (Good access to QRZ.com)

Global QSL (Card design and bureau QSL service-print and mail) (www.globalqsl.com/)

Announced DXpeditions

Here are the sites and bulletins I look at to find out what's happening on the bands:

The Daily DX dailydx.com (subscription and free trial available)

DX World	dx-world.net (free)
NG3K Page	www.ng3k.com and then click on ADXO at the top (free)
DX Summit	www.dxsummit.fi (free)
DXScape	www.dxscape.com (free)
DX Heat	https://dxheat.com (free)

June 2015 Contest Calendar

In case anyone reading this is not aware of it, Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, has a website that is truly a one-stop place for all things related to contesting. The link is <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> or just Google “WA7BNM” and the first hit is Bruce’s site. With just a few clicks, you’ll find everything you need to know about every contest, large or small. I find it very useful when I hear a station that I want to work that is obviously exchanging contest reports and I don’t know the exchange.

DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies

Bob Nielsen, N7XY (n7xy@clearwire.net)

K7EK-1 - Spanaway (DX Spider Node), K7EK sysop. Telnet to: k7ek.dyndns.org, port 9000

RF: 144.91 MHz - Connect to network node W7DK-5, then type DXC.

145.01 MHz - Connect to network node SEA, then connect to network node K7EK-5, then type DXC.

W7PKT Auburn (DX Spider Node) 145.73 MHz, KA7CSE sysop.

Telnet to w7pkt.net, port 7300

DX Spider user documentation is available at

http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider_User_Manual

Lee Sawkins, VE7CC, has written a versatile Windows user program that works with AR Cluster, CC Cluster or DX Spider nodes. It can be downloaded from <http://www.bcdxc.org/ve7cc/default.html>

Totem Trader

FOR SALE: The following items are available from the estate of W7CL in Olympia:

Standing 70 feet Rohn 45G with top plate and mounting base – with all guy wire, insulators and cables, to be taken down; additional top tapered section on ground. \$1,500

3L SteppIR – believed to include 40M, 10 or so years old. Paid \$4,500 new; open to bids.

Create RC5 - \$50.00

Several boxes of 200 foot 10G wire

Rotor cable

Coax

Miscellaneous hardware and parts

Comealongs

Climbing belts

Multimeters

Electronic and other tools

Too many items to mention. Specific information available upon request. Andy, W7VJ, w7vj@millerisar.com

FOR SALE: Have a mint condition **Heathkit SB-221** that is fully modified and on-air checked that I want to sell locally. If interested, I can provide additional information if you contact me at 425-745-0577. John Owens, N7TK

TOTEM TABLOID
Western Washington DX Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 395
Mercer Island, WA 98040

The Totem Tabloid

The *Totem Tabloid* is published 11 times per year (no August issue) by the Western Washington DX Club, Inc, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Advertising

The *Totem Tabloid* accepts commercial advertising. For rates and specifications, please direct inquiries to the WWDXC at the address listed above. Totem Trader non-commercial ads are free to WWDXC members.

Articles and News Items

The *Tabloid* depends on submissions of articles and news items from its readers. Send all items of interest to the *Tabloid* editor:

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Deadline for each issue is the last Friday of the preceding month.

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To join the WWDXC or sponsor a new member, please send an SASE for a membership application form to the WWDXC, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Annual dues, including a subscription to the *Totem Tabloid*, are \$25.00.

Internet Access

Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at www.wwdxc.org

